Impact of Liberalised Import on Agriculture

4669. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study or appointed any expert Committee to study/assess the impact of liberalised import of agricultural products on Indian Agriculture, consequent upon removal of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There has been no comprehensive study on the impact of liberalized import of agricultural products on Indian Agriculture. However, some quick sectoral studies have been conducted to analyse the likely impact of liberalized imports on edible oils. The studies suggest linking the findings with calibration of import duties, application of new technology to increase production and provision of marketing support to farmers to avail better prices for their products and in formulating policies and proposals in the WTO agricultural negotiations.

The removal of import restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of total imports in the country. However, the imports especially those of agricultural products, are being monitored closely subsequent to removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs). A Standing Committee chaired by Commerce Secretary is separately monitoring import of 300 sensitive items and the Committee is empowered to suggest suitable remedial steps in case imports pose a serious threat to domestic producers.